

To Chairman Powell and the FCC Governing Body-

It is my feeling that Sinclair Broadcasting's forced airing of a strongly anti-Kerry documentary in the days leading up to one of the most important and most contested elections in American history is egregiously wrong and needs to be stopped. I speak as a registered INDEPENDENT who has not yet made his decision on this crucial election. I am a strong proponent of a fair and balanced media and Sinclair's actions are as far from fair and balanced as I can imagine in our society. The FCC lays its heavy hand of control on minor incidences of indecency (super bowl, whipped cream licking, etc...), but for it to fail to stop or require equal time or very heavily penalize Sinclair for this action would be the most egregious failure of its history.

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.